

# The Woman's Almanack,

For the YEAR 1694.

Calculated for the Meridian of Great Britain.

Containing many choice, useful, pleasant, and most  
necessary Observations, adapted to the Capacity of the  
Female Sex, and not to be found in other Almanacks.

The Good House-Wife's  
Calendar. A Table of Ex-  
penses. The Critical Days  
of the Year. Observations  
on New-Year's Day. Of  
Dog-Days, and Unfor-  
tunate to the Female Sex.  
How to know the Hour by  
the Moon. Observations on  
Moons. How to know whi-  
ther a young Woman be a  
Maid or no, by a new Way  
of Astrology. To know tell  
which shall do first a Man  
or his Wife. How to make  
Love with due Choice Re-  
spect, directing to both



Wives, and young Men, how Widows their Fortunes, the Stars  
show whether they be Poor, long Life, Marry or no, how many  
Children, which they marry the Person they desire, and whether  
rich or poor in their married State: What persons are  
Fortunate. Also excellent Cosmetics to beautify the Com-  
plexion of old Ladies, making one of sixty six serve as well as a  
young Girl of sixteen. How to procure a new Set of Teeth to  
wear in an old Woman's Mouth. To Cure a Red Face. Like-  
wise what time of the Moon is best to get Children.

Printed by J. Sturges, at the Sign of the Gun, in St. Dun-  
stons Church-lane.

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# The Woman's Almanack, &c.

*Monthly Observations in Goodhousewifery, for the Year 1694.*

## JANUARY.

**O**pen Bee-hives, uncover Roots of Trees, cut Vines in one of the twelve days; take away superfluous Branches from Fruit-trees. Fruits in prime, Winter-musk (bakes well) Winter-norwich (excellently baked) Kentish-pepin, Russet-pepin, Holland-pepin. Set up your Traps for Vermin, especially in your Nurseries and Flower-gardens. A lusty Squab fat Bedfellow very good Physick at this Season.

## FEBRUARY.

**K**itchen-garden-herbs may be planted. Half-open your passages for the Bees. Now also plant out your Colly-flowers to have early; and begin to make your Hot-bed for the first Melons and Cucumbers. Continue Vermin-traps, &c. A good Season to get Children in.

## MARCH.

**S**lip and set Sage, Rosemary, Lavender, Thyme, &c. By this time your Bees sit; keep them close Night and Morning. If Weather prove ill, plant and graft Fruit-trees, carry out Manure; sow all seeds, whose roots are round, as Onions, &c.

## APRIL

**P**Rune Fruit-trees, plant and sow strange Flowers;  
plant Artichock-slips, set French-beans. This  
Month *Venus* is very rampant; get a lusty Husband,  
least worse befall ye.

## MAY

**S**et Gilly-flowers close in Bed, repair Hedges.  
Now set your Bees at full liberty, look out of  
ten, and expect Swarms, &c. Fly the Laboratory,  
and distil Plants for Waters, Spirits, &c.

## JUNE

**P**lant, graft, or set tender Herbs or Flowers.  
Also fold in Sheep, and make them beat off the  
Dew with their feet in the morning before they feed.  
Sow Parsneps, Pumpions, Cucumbers, Melons, and  
Gourds, in a hot fair Day.

## JULY

**G**ather Flowers and Preserve. Replant such  
Herbs as you would not have Seed off. Sow  
Cabbage or Lettice in the old Moon.

## AUGUST

**A** Bitane from the Feats of *Venus*; the Learned hold  
it very bad to use it this Month. Now cut  
down Wood for Winter-fire. Geld Lambs, &c.

## SEPTEMBER

**S**lip Garden-flowers, and re-plant them; and cast  
up Drains to keep the Land dry in Winter.

## OCTOBER

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**S**et Pears, Plums, and Apples, remove Trees that bear Kernels.

## NOVEMBER.

**R**ough, hew, and fashion Plough-ribs, and lay it up to Season; the Ash is good, the Elm better.

## DECEMBER.

**K**ill Swine; open Dreins to prevent Inundations; now use *Venus*.

### *Critical Observations on New-year's Day.*

**S**ome observe that *New-year's Day* being red, portends great Tempest, and War: If it falls upon Sunday, then a pleasant Winter followeth; and a tempestuous Spring, a dry Summer, a plentiful Vintage, Cattle grow, Honey aboundeth, and Women dye, Plenty and Peace. If upon Monday, a various Winter, a good Spring, Summer dry, hard Vintage, and Mens Health changeable, Bees dye, and Wonders shall be seen. If upon Tuesday, a Winter cloudy, a wet and tempestuous Spring, a dry Summer, a small Vintage, though at first hopeful, Women shall dye. If upon Wednesday, the Winter will be sharp and cold, the Spring hard and boisterous. If upon Thursday, a pleasant quiet Winter, a troublesome Spring. If upon Friday, a changeable Winter, a good Spring, Summer dry, a great Plenty of Corn, Sheep shall dye. If upon Saturday, a fearful Winter, for violent Gasts of Wind, a turbulent Spring, and Corn brought, with a rot of Sheep, old Women shall dye, and much burning abound.



*Of Unfortunate Days, and Dog-days.*

**T**He Dog-days are so called, because of the influence of those Stars called the Dog, and they continue in force so long as the Sun by his nearness co-operateth with them, beginning about the 20th day of July, and ending the 17th of August. Diophantus would have us observe the rising of the Dog-Star, in what Sign the Moon is in that time: for if she be found in *Aries*, there useth to be small store of Grain, but in *Gemini* great abundance, and so likewise in *Taurus*; in *Virgo*, corruption of Grain; in *Sagittary* abundance, and so in *Capricorn*; in *Aquarius*, scarcity; in *Pisces*, Plenty; in *Libra* abundance of Fruits, with shells of Nuts, &c. Moreover, some do reckon 33 Unfortunate Days (as they call them) in a Year, In January, the 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 15, 17, and 19. In February, the 8, 10, and 27. In March, the 15, 16, 19, and 28. In April, the 16, and 21. In May, the 7, 17, and 20. In June, the 4, and 7. In July, the 15, and 20. In September, the 6, and 7. In October, the 6. In November, the 15, and 25. In December, the 6, 7, and 9. Others also say that there are in the Year six most Unfortunate Days to be let Blood or to be Born: January the 3. July the 1. October the 2. April the 3. August the 1, and 31. And amongst many the 28 Day of December, called *child-mass-day*, *Cross-day*, and *Simone's-day*, is taken for a very evil Day. But it becometh Christian People not to subject themselves unto Hours and Days, as did Pagans of old.

*Observations on the Weather.*

**T**he Judgement of the Weather is very various and uncertain, especially in an Island, such as is *England*.

land, Scotland, and Ireland, wherein one day the Season changes so often, as that the Morning may be cold like Winter, and the middle of the Day hot like Summer, and again the Night cold as Winter; and sometimes contrariwise it is hot in Winter, &c. But the mixture or confusion as it were of Sea and Land, with the often and sudden change of the Wind, are no little causes hereto. Wherefore frequent Observations and Experience in each particular Place, is very Necessary. Without which a learned Person may Err more grossely than he that hath no more Knowledge then Observation alone, as we see ordinarily in Shepherds and plain Husband-men that are much abroad by Day, and by Night. Whereas an Artist must observe the rising, culminating, and setting of the greatest Stars, the Ingress of the Sun into the four Cardinal Points, Eclipses, the Aspect of the Planets, but especially the Moon, and her Mansions and Lunations, &c. Which are here too Obscure, and too Tedious to Treat of, as they ought. Wherefore we will speak most of such ordinary Signs as Husband-men and Goat-Housewives do observe.

*Signs of fair Weather.*

If it doth Lighten the day being clear, or if it Rain presently after a great Wind; when the Crow or Raven flapeth against the Sun in Summer; also the gaping of Dawes in the Morning, the swarming of Bees, the flying of Humble-Bees, Bees, or Beetles about the Doors in the Evening, the howling of the Owl in rainy Weather, and And removing of their Eggs; all these are signs of fair Weather.

*Signs of foul Weather.*

**R**abbits Red-breast singeth under Hedges before Rain, but upon the tops of Trees before fair Weather. Hens fly abroad if it rain long, but under a Roof if it rain not long. The Herb *Tidfolly* looketh rough against a Tempest, and the Leaves stand staring; Hens resort to the Peach or Roof covered with duff. Also the alteration of the Cock's crowing, the peuning and washing of Birds in Winter, the wallowing of Dogs, the ample working of the Spinner

ner in the Air, the Ant busied with her Eggs, the Bees in Air Weather not going far, Rain suddenly dried up, the heaviness of Head and Eyes, the falling of Soot from Chimneys, the biting of Fleas, Flies and Gnats, the puffing open of Dogs, when Cattel eat greedily, and lick their Hoofs, if they suddenly run here and there, making a noise, and breathing into the Air with open Nostriils, also the croaking of Frogs, Moles rairs up the Ground, the unaccustomed noise of Poultry or Swine, the caying of Crows twice or thrice quick calling, are signs of tempestuous Weather to follow. Little Rain in Winter, is sign of a wet Spring to follow; and a hot dry Summer, is sign of a wet Winter: When it beginneth to freeze with an East-wind, cold Weather is like to continue.

*How to judge of Weather by the Clouds.*

**B**lack Clouds flying from the East, is Rain at Night, from the West, is Rain the next Day; if they fly low and appear to settle on the tops of Hills, it is cold Weather; if they be full charged and appear whole like Towers, it Hails at hand: If white Clouds appear in Winter two or three days together at Sun-rising, it is Cold and Snow, but black Clouds are Rain. A red Sky in the Evening and a gray Morning, is a fair Day. Mists falling in the Morning in Spring or Harvest, also Mists over Ponds or Waters in the Morning, shew Rain. If Smoke ride swiftly in the Air, it is Wind from thence, especially from North to South. If Mists descend from Hills, and settle in the Valleys, it is a fair hot Weather next day. If the Summer be moist, wet and cloudy, it is bad for Corn and Fruit, &c.

*Of the Critical Days in the Year.*

**I**N feaverish Diseases, and such like, the Physicians do observe Critical Days, that is to say, Days upon which there is a great alteration of Sickness, either towards Health or Death in the Patient: Such are reckoned to be the first day of the Sickness, the 14 day, the 20, and the 27. Indeed the Moon altereth those times to some what by the swiftness or slowness of her motion. They have also days whereupon they do pass judgment of the Critical Time that cometh next, such are the 4 day of the Sickness, the 12, the 17, and

and the 2<sup>d</sup>. So likewise in Astrology, according to the Weather, (for the other is according to the temperament of the Earth) there are some days, or rather seasons, seeing we look not altogether upon only one day, which are critical in regard of the Weather, and so consequently of Dearth and Epidemical or Raging Diseases all which are to be understood to fall out so often, or for the most part, but not always. Nay, some are of opinion, that it is caused many days back in our times, but Experience and Observation can best satisfy in all these: Thus if the 22<sup>d</sup> day of *January* be clear without Clouds, it is a sign of a good Year for Wines.

If on *Candlemas-day* the Sun shine, it is a sign of more Winter to be remaining than is already past. So if upon the 22<sup>d</sup> of *February*, it freeze or be cold, it will continue a Fortnight.

Also the 24<sup>th</sup> day of *February*, altereth the Weather from Frost to Thaw, or from Thaw to Frost.

So many Mists in *March*, so many heavy Frosts after *Easter*.

If the Frost be heard before the 24<sup>th</sup> day of *April*, so many days after are they silent.

A dry *March*, a moist *April*, and a cold *May* is thought to be a good Spring.

If the Sun shine the 25<sup>th</sup> day of *May*, Wines prosper. And if it rain the 24<sup>th</sup> of *June*, Nuts do not prosper. If the 24<sup>th</sup> of *June* be wet, it is a sign of a bad Harvest.

If it rain the 2<sup>d</sup> of *July*, there will much Rain follow.

If the Wind do not change the 24<sup>th</sup> day of *June*, the Night following it is held good.

If it rain the 1<sup>st</sup> day of *July*, it lasteth so four Weeks.

The 8<sup>th</sup> day of *July*, if rain, the Vintage shall be good, but if dark, bad.

If the 25<sup>th</sup> day of *July* be fair, it is a sign of a good Harvest.

So, if the Leaves do not fall betimes in Harvest, it is a sign of a sharp Winter.

If the 24<sup>th</sup> day of *August* be fair, it is a sign of a good Harvest.

If it rain on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of *September*, it is a sign of a dry Harvest to come.

The

The 14th day of September.

*If the Deer on Reed-day lie down, and rise up dry,  
Then forty days fair follow usually.*

So many days old the Moon is the 29th day, so many Floods that Winter. If the 17th day of November be cloudy, it sheweth a wet Winter; if dry, a sharp Winter. And as is the 11th so is the Winter.

From the 6th day of September, to the 21st, are called *Halcion-days*, because no Winds use to blow near to the shortest day of the Year. If the 25th day of December come is the new Moon, it is a token of a good Year: And the nearer to the new Moon the better: The contrary in the decrease. If the Sun shine the 12th day, or 6th of January, shall be much Wind: Such is Solstice or 11th day of December, such is the Winter. How many days the first Snow is, before new Moon so many Snows are to come. Thunder on Shrove-Tuesday, foretelleth Wind, store of fruit, and Plenty, the Sun-beams being early abroad. Others affirm, So much it shineth at day, the like it shineth every day of Lent. If it rain on Ascension-day, it betokeneth scarcity of Food for Cattel; but if it be fair, plenty.

*How to know what of the Clock by the Moon.*

Look upon any Sun-dial, and see what of the Clock is by the shadow of the Moon, as you do by the Sun, observing how much it wanteth, or is past 12, for so much it wanteth, or is past the hour of her coming to the South, and knowing the Age of the Moon at that time, you shall find the time of her coming to the South, by the Table of the length of Moon shining, which is afore said. As for example, Let the shadow of the Moon point at 1 of the Dial, and if it be the 10th day of the Moon, she cometh to the South, or shineth by the Table 8 Hours; then subtract 8 from 1, and there remaineth 7 of the Clock, for the hour of the said time.



*The good House-wife's Table of Expenses.*

Expences for one Day.	One Week.			One Month.			One Year.		
	Shillings.	Pence.	Farthings.	Shillings.	Pence.	Farthings.	Pounds.	Shillings.	Farthings.
A Farthing		1	3		7			7	1
A half-penny		2	6		14			14	2
A Penny		4	12		28			28	4
Two pence	1	2		2	4		3	00	10
Three pence	1	9		4	8		4	11	3
A Groat	2	4		9	4		5	14	0
Five pence	2	11		11	0	0	7	12	1
Six pence	3	6	0	14	0	0	9	2	6
A Shilling	7		12	18		8	18	5	0

Here are four several Tables, one for a Day, the second for a Week, the third for a Month, the fourth, for a Year. As to know what the expence of one Farthing a Day is for one Week together, to wit, one Penny three Farthings a Day is for one Week together, to wit, one Penny three Farthings; for a Month, seven Pence; and for a Year, seven shillings, seven Pence and one Farthing. And this is to be observed That so many Pence by the Day, make by the Year just so many Pounds, half Pounds and Groats, as seven Pence a day is by the Year, seven Pounds, sevenhalf Pounds, and seven Groats.

*Of Riches and Poverty.*

The Letter A in the Root of the Fore-finger, promises much Riches and Gain; likewise many Lines from the Root of the Thumb between the Thumb and Line of Life, pointing toward the Ring-finger, promises great Riches. A Mark like a Ladder on the Mount of the Fore-finger, signifies a poor Woman, subject to great losses.

*Of Husbandy.*

Lines reaching from the Mount of the Thumb, over the Mount, (towards the Line of Life) shew the Number of Husband; therefore observe how many there be; and she shall have so many Husbands, or at least a *Solus* to keep her from the *Green Sickness*; I mean, a Friend in the corner.

*Of short Life.*

The Line of Life, if it be short, it shews a short Life, and by how much the more it inclines to brevity, so much the more it is feared.

*Of Backsmeness and Lust.*

The Siller of the Line of Life, on the Mount of the Thumb, long and redish in the Hand of a Woman, also the Mount or ring of the Thumb big, and elevated with many cross disordered Lines, with Lines chequerwise near the Wrist of the Hand; all these denotes and intimates the Woman will live in a Corner, or beat her Pass-past with her Neighbour's Bowling-pin; one that cannot fix her Humours to a constant Diet.

*How to make Hair as red as a Fox, a lovely Brown.*

Take of Lead calcined with Sulphur one part, and another part of quick Lime, mix them with Water, then let it dry, then wash it very clean with Soap and Water, and it will be a very natural Brown: the longer it lieth the better it groweth.

*To Cure a Lady's Red Face.*

Take Lilly-roots four Ounces, boil them in two Pints of Water until half be consumed; then take it off, strain it out, and keep it for your use.

*To make an old Woman's Teeth white, recover a new Set, beautifie the Face, and take out the furrow'd Rinkles as fresh as a Girl of Sixteen.*

Take Loaf-sugar 1 Pound, Allom 3 Ounces, the flower of Beans, Funthory, and Water-lillies, a handful of each, 4 Limons sliced, the Crumb of 2 white Loaves, Goats-milk and White-wine, of each 2 Pints; brufe what is to be bruised; then mix them together in a Glasa Alembick, distil them in *Balneo Mariae*. Keep the Water as most excellent for the abovementioned uses.

of

*Of Moles, how to know whether any Person hath them.*

A Mole on the Nose of a Man, or Lip of a Woman, denotes another on the Privy Parts: A Mole on the Nape of the Neck; another on the Buttocks; and if it be on the Cheek, another on the Belly; a Mole on the Forehand, another on the Breast; a Mole under the Eye-brow, another on the Navel: And this very seldom fails.

*How to know whether a Woman be a Maid or no.*

Take a Spoonful of the Spirit of Seagreen, House-leek, the Powder of Crabs-teeth, one dram; half an Ounce of Jamaica Pepper beaten very small, and mixt together, and presented in a Glass of Wine, Beer, or distilled Apple; if the party do not sneeze in half an Hour after, you may suspect her Virginity; if she do, be confident she is virtuous.

*How to know which shall die first, the Husband or Wife.*

*Note.* That there are seven Letters in the Case, now thus stand for Numbers, as C for 100, D for 500, L for 5, M for 1000, V for 5, X for 10. Therefore to know which Party shall die first, write down the Man's Christian and Surname, and then the Woman's Maiden-name also, and count which of their Names by those Letters can make the greatest Number, and that Party shall over live the other.

*How to make a Philine, or Love-powder.*

Take a Swallow's Nest, young ones and all, and digging a hole in the Earth, put them in, and cover it up; let them be there 48 hours, then opening the place, take the young swallows out, and dry them to Powder very small; and this, some say, hath strange effects: O being the breathing the Basilick Veins, and distilling it after, is the best Love-powder.

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*Alleged according to Querc.*

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